who make available developed industrial plots, sheds, etc.

(5) Central Government is also concerned with the provision of finance through finan cial institutions to the sick industrial units in their rehabilitation programmes. The steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive the sick units to take care of the financial problems are as under:—

(i) Inssuance of detailed guidelines by RBI to all scheduled commercial banks m regard to rehabilitation of sick units.

(ii) Financial assistance in the form of long term equity type assistance upto Rs. 1,50,000 to units with a project cost not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs at a nominal service charge of one percent per annum is also available to potentially viable sick SSI units from the National Equity Fund set up in August, 1987.

(iii) At the instance of the Central Government, the RBI had constituted a Committee underthe Chairmanship of Ex-Deputy Governor, Shri P. R. Nayak, which submitted its report in September. 1922. The Committee looked into the problems of credit, sickness and other relevant aspects. The Committee has made several recommendations for the revival of sick units which include a modified definition of sick SSI units, creation of separate cells by banks, setting up of State Level Tribunals, use of DICs as a forum for redressal of grievances, revitalisation of State Level. Inter-Institutional Committees, etc. The RBI has already announced its decision on some of its recommendations such as modified definition of sick units and reduced rate of interest to be charged on the rehabilitation of sick units.

(iv) RBI has decided that SSI sector would be getting upto 20% of their annual output by way of working capital loan.

(v) SSI forms part of the priority sector lending programme of the banks.

(6) The Government has recently decided to conduct a Diagnostic Survey of sick SSI units in the country.

(7) State Level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs) exist in all States to provide a useful forum for exchange of information and discussion on problems faced by SSI units.

Indian Nuclear Programme

445. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRl IQBAL SINGH:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian nuclear programme is passing through a difficult phase due to the embargo after the Gulf War; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a)and(b) No, Sir. There is no specific embargo on Indian nuclear programme after the Gulf War.

Meghalaya and Shillong Visit of The Chairman, AEC

446. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, accompanied by a team of his officers, visited Shillong and Meghalaya in June and held discussions with the State Government;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit; and

(c) whether he made a commitment that if the people were opposed to ihe mining of uranium in the State where a rich find has been made, mining would not be undertaken there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission accompanied by a team of experts from the Department of Atomic Energy visited Meghalaya in the month of June 1993 and held discussions with the State Government and the Members of the Khasi Hills District Council.

(b) The purpose of the visit was to explain salient features of the mining project including the environmental safety of the operation and the benefits that would accrue to the State from the project.

(c) It was decided that a team of local representatives and Officials of the State Government would visit the working uranium mine at Jaduguda in Bihar to convince themselves of the complete safety and benignness of the operation. The mining project at Domiasiat will be taken up only after necessary clearances from the concerned authorities including the

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and the Ministry of Environment and Forest who will ensure that there is no adverse impact on the environment.

World Bank Loan for Development of Atomic Energy

447. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank approved a loan of Rs. 40 crores dollars for development of Atomic Energy; and

(b) whether Government propose to start new project with this aid, if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Future of Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant

448. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even after spending Rs. 500 crores in the Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant, it is still not progressing satisfactorily and is behind schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to complete the project early, and the time schedule fixed for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir. The progress of the project consisting of two units of 220MWe each is satisfactory and is as per schedule.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The project is progressing as per schedule. The first unit is expected to achieve criticality in June 1996 and the second unit in December, 19%.

Supply of Nuclear Fuel to Tarapur Atomic Power Station

449. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA is contemplating to use Tarapur Atomic Power Station as a lever to get India sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by threating to stop fuel supply to Tarapur Station;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to ensure that Tarapur Station from being closed down in the absence of foreign fuel supply to it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) The United State of America stopped the fuel supply to Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) in 1980, when the last consignment of fuel for TAPS from them was received.

In 1983 a contract was concluded with the French Government for supply of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) for a period of 10 years for TAPS. The French have already supplied all the fuel under this contract. As for future supply of LEU for TAPS by France, they had indicated sometime back, that it would be on the condition of India accepting full scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards.

In the absence of LEU, TAPS could be operated Mixed Uranium Plutonium (MOX) fuel for which the technology has been developed indigenously. It is also possible to consider operating TAPS using indigenously produced LEU, for which the requisite technology is available.

Fire in the Narora Nuclear Power Plant

450. DR JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inquiry Committee set up to investigate the Narora Nuclear Power Plant fire incident of March 31,1993, has submitted two separate reports assigning different reasons for the fire;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

(c) what is the evaluation of Government in this regard; and

(d) what action Government propose to take on these reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) There were two inquiry Committees set